
SUSSEX COUNTY CONTRACT BRIDGE ASSOCIATION

A meeting of the Committee of the SCCBA took place at West Sussex Bridge Club on
Sunday 10 May 2009 starting at 10-30 am

Present:

Mrs J Clinton	Chairman
Mr E Williams	Vice Chairman
Miss J Simpson	Hon Secretary
Mr D Galpin	Hon Treasurer
Mr N Hardy	Tournament Manager
Mr J Williams	Membership Secretary

Mr M Pool, Mrs M Langmaid, Mr P Bates, Mr D Armstrong, Mrs A Galpin, Mrs T Hennings, Mrs H Kent, Mr R Lowe, Mr B Loasby, Mr P Pennant, Mrs C Watson, and Mr M Wotton. Mr R Roberts was also present.

The Chairman welcomed new members, Mr R Lowe and Mr B Loasby to the committee.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Mrs V Chandler, Mrs D Strauss and Mr. R Whiting. The committee wished Val Chandler a speedy and full recovery.

2. Minutes of the meeting of 7th January 2009 and 15th February 2009

2.1 Accuracy

7th January 2009; Para 9 line 4 amend to read "it was noted that the Metropolitan Cup will be *later (September)* this year"

The minutes of both meetings were then agreed nem con and duly signed as a true record of the meetings.

2.2 Matters Arising

2.2.1 Basic Bridge Rules (Item 2.2) A convention card for use at the Welcome/Venture Pairs events and a convention card for use at Basic Bridge events have been agreed by the Tournament Committee and both are being made available via the website. MW stated that the Basic Bridge Card is already on website.

2.2.2 Scoring programme (item 3.6) Jeff Smith's programme is now available for use.

2.2.3 ScoreBridge Training (item 3.6) JC/JS/AG have done some training.

3. Chairman's Report

3.1 AGM/Spring Congress. These had both been most successful and all involved were thanked for their hard work. There had been some confusion which prizes should be presented after the AGM. It was agreed that knock-out prizes should be presented at the AGM but congress and major event prizes should continue to be

presented at individual events with recipients asked if they wished to have them re-presented at the AGM.

3.2 County Directors. Some organisers had found difficulty in getting a county director for events. EW proposed that county tournament directors should be contacted annually to ask at which events they might be available to direct; further he proposed that this opportunity be used to offer refresher/follow up training This was agreed. In the meantime organisers should be advised to ask MP/EW if help is needed in finding county directors.

Action: EW

3.3 Equipment Coordinator. Malcolm Wright has agreed to be Equipment Coordinator; this role is to maintain and upkeep equipment and supplies at the Bugden's. Transport of all SCCBA equipment and duplicated boards will be carried out by Malcolm - this is part of his business and he requires at least 2 weeks notice of organisers requirements including delivery and collection dates and times. NH will update all event organiser job lists to reflect this and any other changes needed to the lists.

Action: NH

Further to assist in planning a list of events and venues should be sent annually to the Equipment Coordinator on completion of the calendar.

Action: NH (JC)

3.4 Chairman's Cup. Over the past few years it has become increasingly difficult to get quality pairs to play in this event. To encourage more commitment to the event it was agreed that organisers of qualifying events should give information on this event to winners as part of their prize and winners asked to indicate if they would be accepting the invitation to play in the Chairman's Cup.

Action: NH

In addition DG agreed to discuss the format at the next Selector's meeting and ask some top players what kind of competition they would like to have and be willing to participate in, and when it should be held.

Action: DG

In view of the lack of support, and noting that the event is currently without organiser it was agreed to trial this as a biennial event, suspending the event for 2009.

(Post meeting note: Mr B Loasby has kindly agreed to act as the organiser for 2010)

4. County Appointments.

The Chairman informed the committee that the Chairman of the Conduct Committee was seeking a new member following the sudden death of Chris Bainham; and that Ron Buddery had resigned from the Selection Committee

A draft list of county appointments was tabled for approval by the management committee and the proposed county appointments (see Annex) were then agreed.

5. Competition Organisers

A draft list of competition organisers was tabled for approval by the management committee. EW will be unable to organise the GP event in May 2010 and CW kindly volunteered to undertake this. It was noted that Peter Langston had agreed to run this year's Autumn Congress and also a Devonshire Cup event; and that RW had agreed to take over the

Welcome Pairs and PB the Novice Teams. The list was then accepted nem con and is shown at the Annex.

6. Secretary's Report

Item 6.1. Constitution. An EBU model County Contract Bridge Association constitution has been produced and the Hon Secretary presented this to the committee for consideration and discussion of its use in Sussex. MP advised that the EBU was likely to become a charity in 2 years time and the relationship between counties and the EBU may change - counties would then have to change their constitutions. MP had reviewed the Sussex constitution and considered that it was adequate for the need and unless members felt the current county constitution was not working no changes need be made until the charitable issue is decided. The committee agreed.

Mr Roberts felt that there was a need to bring more democracy into the constitution and wished to consider this and the EBU model constitution. He offered to review the current and model constitutions and make comments and recommendations for the committee to consider at the next meeting. The Chairman thanked him and accepted his offer.

DA also questioned the current selection of members as Shareholders and on the EBU committees. MP replied that the EBU was currently looking into the democratic election of shareholders.

Item 6.2. Maintenance of equipment. A complaint concerning the condition of the water machines provided at the spring congress. The machines have now been cleaned and in future they will be stored under polythene. The Hon Sec will reply accordingly.

Item 6.3. Calendar 2009/2010. Contact has now been made with all clubs and the Hon Sec informed the committee that the following 5 clubs had decided not to affiliate this year: Cooden Beach Golf Club, Cowfold Bridge Club, Hailsham Bridge Club, Rottingdean Bridge Club and Seaford Bridge Club. The diary meeting is being held next week and the diary will be sent to members with the Newsletter in June.

7. Treasurer's Report

The bank balances stood at £7523 in the current account and £26931 in the High Interest account. The Treasurer reported a surplus of £1930 for 2008 slightly down on 2007. However the Spring Congress had shown a surplus of £1257. The typo in the accounts presented to the AGM has now been amended and signed by the auditors.

A total of £900 was raised in the charity sim pairs this year and the committee agreed that £500 each should be given to the selected charities – ASSERT (B&H) (DG will present) and The Ferring Country Centre (TH will present).

The costs of duplimating boards for major events (Congresses, New Year Swiss Teams, Green point events, Met Cup and Ardingly Swiss Pairs) by Patcham has now been set at 10p per board.

8. EBU Matters

Item 8.1 Master Points. The EBU consultation paper on a new/revised Master Point system for universal membership had been circulated to the committee. In general the

proposals were welcomed by the committee. Comments forwarded by RW concerning the need to have a means of rising through the ranks from gaining lower level points were agreed. He also felt that there needed to be clarification on how Sim Pairs events would be graded, many of which are played as a club event where players play by default rather than choice (ie a club night). The Committee felt that in view of the grass roots effect of the proposed master point system comments from club membership on the proposals should be sought before replying to the EBU.

Action: JS

Item 8.2 Club Contracts. The Hon Sec reported that clubs had now been sent the Pay to Play Information pack which contained the EBU Club Terms of Affiliation and Application Form.

Item 8.3. Matters Arising from EBU Shareholders Meeting. The Hon Sec reported from the last Shareholders meeting that a revised set of EBU Byelaws was in production; shareholders would be voting on them at the AGM in October. She would be seeking guidance from the committee at the July meeting.

9. Education Report

Item 9.1 Request for funding to attend Loughborough. DA presented his case for the continued funding of juniors to attend the Loughborough Schools' Cup. He requested that money be made available a year in advance. It was proposed by NH, seconded by PB that up to £2K be made available for bus costs (about £300), chaperones (about £400) and students (about £100 per student) for this year and next year. This was agreed and DA was asked to report back on the events and progress of the juniors during the year.

Action: DA

Item 9.2 Junior Bridge in Sussex. The need to encourage more bridge in schools was discussed at length. The need for CRB checks to be carried out on everyone working with children presents a challenge! MP advised the committee that there was pressure to get bridge into the National curriculum. It was felt that there was scope to widen the network in Sussex and it was agreed that an article should be placed in the newsletter asking for volunteers to assist DA and also seeking support for a possible parent/grandparent/child event.

Action: JC/DA

Item 9.3 Really Easy Congress at Brighton. DA reported that he had negotiated free entry for Sussex juniors at the Really Easy Congress in Brighton in August. The committee asked that schools be made aware of this.

Action: DA

Item 9.4. Autumn Congress event. An event for juniors (using the agreed basic bridge card) is planned on the Sat of the Autumn Congress open event at Patcham. JS will provide copy of the entry form to DA who will invite all schools and encourage them to send junior players. A separate prize will be presented.

Action: DA

10. Membership Secretary's Report

The number of members paid up to date was 927 and there were a further 386 not yet paid. JW pointed out that with P2P no money would be available from membership subscriptions at the start of the year and that payments would then be staged.

11. Distribution of Newsletter

With the anticipated rise in membership an alternative method of sending out the newsletter to members was required. After some discussion on maintaining the status quo, future costs and AGM notifications it was agreed that as a trial the October newsletter and event entry forms would be sent to club secretaries for distribution. A notice to this effect will be placed on the website and in the forthcoming newsletter. The Secretary would contact clubs to confirm the numbers required by each club.

Action: JS/JC/MW

12. Communication Officer's Report

CW reported that the county entry in English Bridge now has a restriction in the number of words and she has therefore only been able to name the first and second place winners in her report of county events.

13. Conduct Committee Report

Nothing to report.

14. Master Point Secretary's Report.

Problems are still arising with the provision of EBU numbers – this is particularly difficult for open events and MW was concerned about the award of points for the Autumn Congress. NH will check with Peter Langston to obtain information on the day.

The direct uploading of results after events is not always being done. He requested that this should be done for simple single date events. It was however better to send results for congresses to him to ensure there were no corruptions before the results reached the web site.

15. Tournament Committee Report

The Autumn Congress is to be run as an open event to encourage more participation from non EBU members and engage them in the benefits of the upcoming P2P. Confirmation from the EBU that this event can be run as an open event has been received. It will still be an EBU licensed event however although no fee will be payable. NH will check with EBU if acknowledgment of EBU is required on the documentation.

Action: NH

NH reported that a county mobile telephone is being purchased for use by event organisers as a contact point on the day of event.

16. Selectors' Report

DG reported, as mentioned at Item 4 above, that Ron Buddery had resigned from the committee and the appointment of a new member would be considered at the next meeting. No meeting had been held since the last management meeting due to the change in the date of

the Metropolitan Cup. However the Sussex team had taken part in the Spring Cup Fours and reached the last 12 – a good result as they had been seeded only 32)

17. Annual selection of dates (in advance) of Management Committee Meetings

The following dates for management committee meetings for the next year were agreed:

Fri 24 July 09 at 1900 at Henfield (venue tba)

Sun 18 Oct 09 at 1030 at West Sussex Bridge Club

Fri 8 Jan 10 at 1030 at Worthing Bridge Club

18. Any Other Business

There was no any other business.

Annex: County Appointments and Organisers 2009/10